

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY

UNCLAS STATE 115481

FOR HIRSCH

FOLLOWING TELEGRAM FROM TEL AVIV DATED MAY 19, 1977 SENT
SECSTATE WASHDC IS REPEATED TO YOU: QUOTE

UNCLAS TEL AVIV 3565

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, IS

SUBJECT: DISTRIBUTING KNESSET SEATS

1. STILL INCOMPLETE RETURNS GIVE THE FOLLOWING
PROJECTION OF THE DISTRIBUTION OF KNESSET SEATS:

LIKUD	41
ALIGNMENT	32
DMC	14

NRP	12
AGUDAT YISRAEL	4
POALEI AGUDAT YISRAEL	2
RAKAH	6
SHLOMZION	2

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FLATTO-SHARON	2
ILP	1
CITIZENS RIGHTS	1
UNITED ARAB LIST	
(ALIGNMENT AFFILIATED)	1

2. COUNTING CONTINUES TODAY, INCLUDING THE COUNT

OF THE SOLDIER VOTE. THE CENTRAL ELECTIONS COMMITTEE HOPES TO HAVE COMPLETE UNOFFICIAL RETURNS BY THE VENING OF MAY 22. MEANWHILE, THE ABOVE RESULTS ARE SUBJECT TO SLIGHT CHANGES THAT WILL NOT AFFECT THE RANKING OF THE MAJOR PARTIES BUT COULD BE SIGNIFICANT TO THE LESSER ONES AND POSSIBLY IMPORTANT TO GOVERNMENT FORMATION. FOR EXAMPLE, POALEI AGUDAT YISRAEL AT THIS POINT APPEARS TO BE SHAKY IN ITS HOLD ON A SECOND SEAT AND COULD END UP WITH ONLY ONE. ON THE OTHER HAND, THE ALIGNMENT IS REPORTEDLY CLOSE TO A 33RD SEAT.

3. IN ADDITION TO THESE POTENTIAL CHANGES, DISTRIBUTION OF THE PARTIES' SURPLUSES MAY AFFECT THE FINAL PICUTRE. THE MINIMUM NECESSARY FOR A PARTY'S FIRST SEAT IS 1 PERCENT OF THE TOTAL VOTE, APPROXIMATELY 18,000 VOTES. (FOR EACH ADDITIONAL SEAT, SOMEWHAT LESS THAN THIS FIGURE IS REQUIRED.) THERE ARE SEVERAL AGREEMENTS INVOLVING THE PAIRING OF PARTIES THAT PROVIDE FOR THE DISTRIBUTION OF VOTES REMAINING AFTER THE NUMBER OF SEATS HAS BEEN ALLOTTED TO EACH PARTY. IF THE TWO PARTIES TO THE AGREEMENT HAVE BETWEEN THEM SUFFICIENT SURPLUS VOTES FOR A SEAT, THAT SEAT WILL GO TO THE PARTY HAVING THE LARGEST SURPLUS. EXISTING AGREEMENTS PAIR THE ALIGNMENT WITH THE UNITED ARAB LIST, THE LIKUD WITH SHLOMZION, THE DMC WITH THE CITIZENS RIGHTS MOVEMENT.

4. ASIDE FROM THESE AGREEMENTS, WHICH WERE ALL UNCLASSIFIED

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REGISTERED PRIOR TO THE ELECTION WITH THE CENTRAL ELECTIONS COMMITTEE, THE DISTRIBUTION OF SURPLUS VOTES IS GOVERNED BY THE BADER-OFER LAW ENACTED BEFORE THE 1973 ELECTION. IT PROVIDES THAT ALL SURPLUS VOTES (BEYOND THOSE DISPOSED OF BY THE PAIRING AGREEMENTS) ARE PUT INTO A POOL AND THEN DIVIDED ACCORDING TO THE PROPORTION OF VOTES EACH PARTY RECEIVES IN THE ELECTION. THE LAW CLEARLY FAVORS THE LARGER PARTIES. IF, FOR EXAMPLE, THE LIKUD RECEIVED 35 PERCENT OF THE TOTAL VOTE, IT WOULD BE ENTITLED TO 35 PERCENT OF ALL SURPLUS VOTES. THIS COULD BE ENOUGH FOR ONE OR TWO MORE SEATS.

5. ALTHOUGH THE MULTI-MILLIONAIRE EXPATRIATE FRENCH-MAN SAMUEL FLATTO-SHARON APPEARS TO HAVE WON TWO SEATS, HE WILL ONLY BE ALLOTTED ONE BECAUSE HIS IS THE ONLY NAME APPEARING ON HIS LIST. (INEXPLICABLY, HE DID NOT INCLUDE ANY OTHER NAME WHEN HE FILED. SOME HAVE SUGGESTED HALF FACETIOUSLY THAT HE HOPED IN THIS WAY

TO ENSURE HIS IMMUNITY FROM EXTRADITION TO FRANCE WHERE HE IS WANTED FOR FRAUD AND OTHER CHARGES. THE REASON-ING IS THAT A KNESSET OF 119 MEMBERS IS NOT A LEGAL BODY AND SINCE THERE IS NO ONE ON HIS LIST TO REPLACE HIM, HE COULD NOT BE EXTRADITED.) ALL THE VOTES HE RECEIVED BEYOND THOSE NECESSARY FOR HIS ONE PERCENT WILL GO INTO THE SURPLUS POOL.

6. IT IS ANTICIPATED THAT THE LIKUD SEAT TOTAL WILL BE SOMEWHAT LARGER THAN THE VOTING RESULTS THUS FAR INDICATE. THEY ARE EXPECTED TO DO WELL IN THE SOLDIER VOTE (THE LIKUD RECEIVED 42 PERCENT OF THE SOLDIER VOTE IN 1973 WHILE WINNING ONLY 30 PERCENT OF THE TOTAL VOTE) AND MAY YET BENEFIT BY A SEAT OR TWO FROM THE BADER-OFER LAW. THE ALIGNMENT MAY ALSO INCREASE ITS CURRENT SHOWING AS A RESULT OF THE DISTRIBUTION OF SURPLUSES. LEWIS UNQUOTE CHRISTOPHER
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